

# Geographic Mobility During Industrialization, the Depression, and WWII

## Activity Instructions for Students

Historic periods in U. S. history have affected the geographic mobility and migration of the country's people. **Migration** refers to the movement of people within the United States from one location to another. People in the United States move from place to place for a variety of reasons, and historic events can be a contributing factor.

This activity examines geographic mobility and migration during three periods in U.S. history:

- **1920-1930** – During this decade, the United States continued a trend of urbanization and many people changed from agricultural to industrial work.
- **1930-1940** – During this decade, the fallout from a severe economic collapse lead to the Great Depression, a time of high unemployment and devastating effects on the American and global economies.
- **1940-1950** – During this decade, World War II solidified the nation's role as a global power and led to a variety of effects on the American economy after WWII ended the Depression.

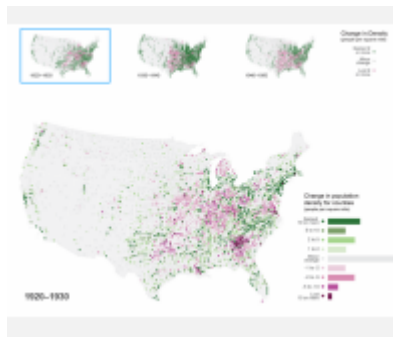
In this activity, you will analyze population density maps of the United States from the three time periods mentioned above. Open the interactive map (<http://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/010/>). Compare and contrast the maps, paying close attention to major changes in population density as evidenced by dark green dots (increased population density) and dark purple dots (decrease in population density). Consider the movement of the population across rural, urban, and suburban regions of the country and answer the questions in the “Activity Assessment” section of the activity.

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## Activity Assessment

- From 1920-1930, which regions of the U.S. had the most growth? Which regions had declines in population? Or was there a lack of movement in U.S. regions? Did you notice major or minor changes in this time period?
- How might the changes you noticed from 1920-1930 be explained by the occurrence of industrialization?
- From 1930-1940, which regions of the U.S. had the most growth? Which regions had declines in population? Did regions stay the same? Did you notice major or minor changes in this period?
- How might the changes you noticed from 1930-1940 be explained by the occurrence of the Great Depression?
- From 1940-1950, which regions of the U.S. had the most growth? Which regions had declines in population? Or was there a lack of movement in U.S. regions? Did you notice major or minor changes in this period?
- How might the changes you noticed from 1940-1950 be explained by the occurrence of World War II?